Remarks

Claims 16-40 are now pending in this application. Claims 16-40 are rejected. Claims 1-15 have been canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Claims 16 and 17 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully traverses the objection to the drawings. Applicant has added a new Figure 18 that shows an example of an address form. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 16-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Williams et al. (US2002/0032573) is respectfully traversed.

Williams et al. describe a system displaying a graphic representation of an exemplary shipping addresses screen (paragraph 256). Inputting a recipient's e-mail address (293-1) causes the system to populate the screen with a destination address information (293) if the information is already in an address book (paragraph 256). If the destination address information for the specified recipient is not already in the address book, a user must input the destination address information and can indicate to the system to save the new address in the address book (paragraph 257). For a tracking application program interface (API), a carrier predefines a layout for tracking requests and predefines a layout for tracking request responses (paragraph 110). In cases in which a particular carrier does not support an API, the system performs tracking using an approach sometimes referred to as "web scraping" (paragraph 111). In order to track using the web scraping approach, the system communicates with a carrier by formatting HTML queries to the carrier's internet website (paragraph 111).

Claim 16 recites a web-based shipping system for facilitating selection of at least one shipping carrier, the system comprising "a client sub-system comprising a browser; a centralized database for storing carrier information; a server sub-system configured to be coupled to said client sub-system and said centralized database, said server sub-system further configured to: receive shipping information from a user via the client sub-system; compare the shipping information against pre-stored information; select at least one shipping carrier which matches the shipping

information; display the selected shipping carrier based on the shipping information; accept at least one of a user identification number and a password for each department related to the at least one shipping carrier; and provide a selection from a plurality of modes of printing a shipping label of one of the at least one shipping carrier, wherein the modes include a website of the one of the at least one shipping carrier and an address form that is separate from the website and that includes source and destination addresses; and direct the user to the address form when the one of the at least one shipping carrier does not provide the website."
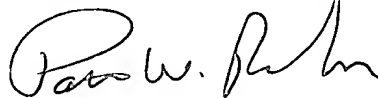
Williams et al. do not describe or suggest a web-based shipping system for facilitating selection of at least one shipping carrier as recited in Claim 16. Specifically, Williams et al. do not describe or suggest a server sub-system configured to direct the user to the address form when the one of the at least one shipping carrier does not provide the website. Rather, Williams et al. describe a system displaying a graphic representation of an exemplary shipping addresses screen. The system populates the screen with a destination address information if the information is already in an address book. If the destination address information for a specified recipient is not already in the address book, a user must input the destination address information and can indicate to the system to save the new address in the address book. The system tracks requests and request responses by formatting HTML queries to a carrier's internet website. Accordingly, Williams et al. do not describe or suggest a server sub-system configured to direct the user to the address form as is recited in Claim 16. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 16 is submitted to be patentable over Williams et al.

Claims 17-40 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 16. When the recitations of Claims 17-40 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 16, Applicant submits that Claims 17-40 likewise are patentable over Williams et al.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 16-40 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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IN THE DRAWINGS

Applicant respectfully requests approval of the following drawing changes. A new Figure 18 has been added to show an exemplary embodiment of an address page. Applicant submits, in anticipation of approval of the drawings changes, a replacement sheet for the new Figure 18. No new matter has been added.